



## Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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June 18, 2015

Dear:

On behalf of Governor Mark Dayton I would like to invite you to join the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for a face-to-face Consultation on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, in Duluth, Minnesota. The focus of the Consultation will be the MPCA's draft proposed approach for protecting wild rice from excess sulfate. The Consultation will provide an opportunity for meaningful communication and coordination between MPCA and Tribal officials and will inform MPCA's future efforts to protect wild rice.

In 2011 the Minnesota Legislature directed the MPCA to conduct research on the effects of sulfate and other substances on the growth of wild rice. That legislation further instructed the MPCA to identify the specific surface waters where Minnesota's wild rice water quality standards apply. The March 2015 draft proposal is based on the MPCA's analysis of the research and other available information, and outlines a proposed approach for protecting wild rice from sulfate pollution.

The MPCA is committed to working with Minnesota Tribes to protect and restore wild rice for its many important uses. Given our collective interest in this critical resource, I hope that you will join me for the Consultation and a field visit to a wild rice water. The activities as scheduled:

Wild Rice Field Viewing, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Fond du Lac Reservation  
1720 Big Lake Road  
Cloquet, Minnesota 55720

Consultation Discussion, 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Gitchee Gumee Conference Center  
Mid-Continent Ecology Division  
6201 Congdon Boulevard  
Duluth, Minnesota 55804

We are proposing the following agenda:

10:00 AM - Gather at the Fond du Lac Reservation Administration Building for visit to a wild rice water  
12:30 PM - Lunch at EPA Gitchee Gumee Conference Center in Duluth  
1:00 PM - Technical presentation from MPCA staff  
2:00 PM - Questions and discussion of technical presentation  
3:30 PM - Additional discussion

Mr. Kevin Leecy  
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We are committed to facilitating effective and meaningful Consultation. If the date, time, location or format of the Consultation does not work for you please contact me directly at 651-757-2014 or [john.stine@state.mn.us](mailto:john.stine@state.mn.us), or Katrina Kessler of my staff at 651-757-2490 or [katrina.kessler@state.mn.us](mailto:katrina.kessler@state.mn.us). We would like to find a way to consult with everyone who is interested in Consultation. Thank you for your engagement in this process. I look forward to working with you to protect wild rice in waters across Minnesota.

Sincerely,

John Linc Stine  
Commissioner

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